

the office. My friend and myself were looking out through the window at them, when one of three or four officers in the rear exclaimed, "only the provost guard, gentlemen." Even then I did not suspect their purpose, but thought they had been sent out from the depot as a guard to pick up stragglers. They halted, however, at the office, and I soon became aware that their object was unfriendly. I immediately retired from my house, feeling that I was not safe on the premises. Meanwhile some friends, who had earlier intimation than I of the purpose of this armed band, repaired in haste to the Executive mansion and informed Gov. Vance² of the movement. He instantly hastened up Fayetteville street, accompanied by a member of his staff who happened to be with him, and met the Mayor of the City³ just before he reached the office. He then looked for Gen. Benning, but, being unable to find him, he met Col. Harris,⁴ of one of the Georgia regiments, to whom he appealed to aid him in arresting the movement, then fully under way. Col. H promptly responded, and they hastened to the office. When they arrived the men were engaged, evidently under orders, in pouring the type in the street, and some of them were trying to to pull down the power press. A Maj. Shephard⁵ was called for—it is said he appeared, and telling the men that the Governor of the State was present and desired to address them, he ordered them to leave the office and fall into line. This they did quietly and at once. Gov. Vance, we learn, reproved them in the strongest and most pointed terms for their conduct, whereupon they cheered him, and one of the officers replied, "Governor, we have done what we came to do, and will now retire."

It is not true, as stated some of the Georgia papers, that there were North Carolinians in this mob. They were all Georgians, with arms in their hands, led and directed by officers. The men were no doubt picked out for this work from the 2d and 20th Georgia, and officers from both these regiments were no doubt in the mob. I learn that Gov. Vance immediately wrote to President Davis, characterizing the outrage as it deserved, and demanding the trial and punishment of the officers and men engaged in this disgraceful business; and that the President replied, informing the Governor that he had given directions to the commanding General of the department to investigate the matter. I take it for granted that the investigation will take place, and just punishment will be inflicted. To suppose otherwise would be to conclude that our government was *Mexicanized* and that the President was deliberately faithless to the Constitution which he has sworn to support. But even if this were possible, such is my confidence in Gov. Vance that I believe he will see to it at all hazards that this outrage is properly atoned for.

The extent of the injury to my office is not so great as it first supposed. Nearly all the types were poured out of the cases, several forms of type, including a form of the State laws, knocked into pi, and some paper damaged; but the presses were not injured, nor was the house itself seriously damaged. But several gold and steel pens, postage stamps, small change, inkstands, four large bottles of ink, some books, and other articles mysteriously disappeared; and I learn that some of the mob were engaged next day in showing some old federal postage stamps which I had before the war, as evidence that I was a traitor and in correspondence with the enemy!